

January 24, 1957

Dear Cliff:

I really am pleased that you are 'inclining' westward. Of course, I was looking at Stanford from a slightly different point of view. However, I will be surprised if you find anything new 'reasons which would make the move unwise'. I don't want to be a salesman, but if my reassurance is any temporary balm to you before you make the trip, here were some impressions:

1. Finance. Everyone there is confident that Stanford is in a different era than the dark post-war days. They hope to tap the benefits of ultimate and indirect public aid, on one hand, and private benefice on the other. They consider Stanford is a unique 'Harvard of the West' and that many western multibillionaires are just waiting to empty their pockets into the treasury, the more so under tax pressure. They do have a very substantial endowment, and they can quote figures of very respectable increments of private gifts. If any university can survive on these terms, I imagine Stanford can. If not, there will inevitably other support. A propos your own program, you know how easy it is to get operating funds now. Stanford is in a position (judging from my own dealings) to make a very respectable guarantee for your own salary, and for your laboratory facilities. Don't be too modest about either of these, especially the latter. They have \$1-200,000 from a lump Rockefeller grant, and they ought to spend a good chunk of this for your purposes, and match it from general university funds. They are quite anxious to have you, and there is no reason they shouldn't relieve any of your immediate anxieties. Where the financial pinch does come is in the rate of general expansion or improvement of their staff. However, there are bound to be a number of openings they will have to fill for the medical school, and not only in biochemistry.

2. Graduate students. That's why they want you. I think these days, most good students are specifically attracted by a particular professor; you'd be the drawing card, and if it's California, tant mieux. My main worry in this direction was whether said students could get enough background in related disciplines, especially microbiology-biochemistry.

I'm sorry you can't make it here. We're going directly from Chicago to Paris, and doubt we will have time or energy to make D.C. on the way back. Some other time. A propos Sussman et al., I can't believe Ken here wants to make serious trouble, but I don't know that I can talk to him quietly without knowing exactly what about. Science showed such acute ineptness about this that I am quite determined not to send my own papers there, & have as much as told Bentley about it. This isn't pique, just self-preservation. Maury is not altogether un-responsible too: that note in Science was an impetuous job, and its original version had some bloopers that made it a handy target. I don't really know how bad those 'repercussions' are.